

Acharei Mot-Kedoshim Text Study
Sacred Boundaries and Separation
Hannah Elkin
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Opening question: How do we experience the *havdalah* ritual? What are memories of times we have performed that ritual?

Sacred Boundaries and Separation in Leviticus

Leviticus 16:2-3

2 Adonai said to Moses:

Tell your brother Aaron not to come just at any time into the sanctuary inside the curtain before the mercy seat that is upon the ark, or he will die; for I appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. 3 Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering

Leviticus 17:3-7

3 If anyone of the house of Israel slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat in the camp, or slaughters it outside the camp, 4 and does not bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, to present it as an offering to Adonai before the tabernacle of Adonai, he shall be held guilty of bloodshed; he has shed blood, and he shall be cut off from the people. 5 This is in order that the people of Israel may bring their sacrifices that they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to Adonai, to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and offer them as sacrifices of well-being to Adonai... 7 so that they may no longer offer their sacrifices for goat-demons, to whom they prostitute themselves. This shall be a statute forever to them throughout their generations.

Leviticus 18:6-11

6 None of you shall approach anyone near of kin to uncover nakedness: I am the Lord. 7 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is the nakedness of your father. 9 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your sister, your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born abroad. 10 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your son's daughter or of your daughter's daughter, for their nakedness is your own nakedness. 11 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father, since she is your sister.

Leviticus 19:13-18

13 You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. **14** You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am Adonai.

15 You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. **16** You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am Adonai

17 You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. **18** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am Adonai.

Leviticus 20:24-26

24 But I have said to you: You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am the Lord your God; I have separated you from the peoples. **25** You shall therefore make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; you shall not bring abomination on yourselves by animal or by bird or by anything with which the ground teems, which I have set apart for you to hold unclean. **26** You shall be holy to me; for I Adonai am holy, and I have separated you from the other peoples to be mine.

Sacred Boundaries and Separation in Our Lives

What are the things, people, spaces, or moments in our lives that we consider sacred?

Jewish Wedding Vows:

Harei at/atah m'kudeshet/m'kudash li im taba'at zo k'daat Moshe v'Yisrael

Behold you are consecrated (made sacred) to me with this ring according to the laws of Moses and Israel

Daily Life:

“Compassionate people ask for what they need. They say no when they need to, and when they say yes, they mean it. They're compassionate because their boundaries keep them out of resentment.” - Brene Brown

“When we fail to set boundaries and hold people accountable, we feel used and mistreated.” - Brene Brown